

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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sub (1) A potent peptide inhibitor (SuperSog) of TGF- $\beta$  family growth factor signalling, peptide variants thereof and nucleotide coding sequences therefor are provided by the invention. The Super-Sog peptide comprises a fragment of the *Drosophila short gastrulation (Sog)* gene which includes the CR-1 cysteine-rich repeat of *Sog*. Methods and compositions for use of Super-Sog in therapeutic and diagnostic applications are also provided.